order or a natural calamity or such other circumstances arising in the public interest."

(d) Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government to encourage investment in the power sector include-

(i) 100% FDI has been permitted on the automatic approval route in respect of projects relating to electricity generation, transmission and distribution (other than Nuclear Power Plants). Recently, power trading has also been included in the above, subject to compliance with the regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003;

(ii) Initiative for facilitating the development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of about 4000 MW capacity each under the tariff based competitive bidding route using super critical technology; and

(iii) The Central Government has on 19th January 2005 issued guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff procurement of power by distribution licensees after due consultation with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), This is expected to further encourage foreign as well as private sector investment. Subsequently, the Central Government has also issued detailed guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding process for procurement of transmission services for transmission of electricity *vide* notification dated 17th April, 2006.

Power transmission among States

1963. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power regulator has notified the new transmission rule that would allow power producers with the capacity of at least 250 MW to transfer power beyond their State limits through contracts for 3 to 5 years;

(b) if so, whether, after detailed consultation with the stake holders, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) revised connectivity regulations for inter-State transmission rules, that now include guidelines for medium-sized open access power trading and long term power transactions; and

(c) if so, to what extent these rules have helped in transmitting power to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has notified on 7th August 2009 CERC (Grant of connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State transmission and related matters) regulations 2009 after following a due process of law of previous publication of the draft regulation and consultations with stakeholders.

Under these regulations, a power producer with a capacity of 250 MW and above can seek connectivity to the inter-State transmission system and seek long-term access (12-25 years) or medium term open access (3 months to 3 years) for selling this power to any State. However, a power producer of any capacity connected to the inter-State transmission system may also seek long term access or medium term open access for selling the power outside the State after getting concurrence of the SLDC (State Load Despatch Centre).

(b) As per procedure, the draft CERC (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in Inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009 were put on the web-site and comments sought from all stakeholders. A public hearing was also held by Commission. After consideration of which the final regulations were notified on 7th August, 2009. These regulations are for grant of connectivity, long-term access and medium-term open access in inter-State Transmission and related matters.

(c) These regulations are yet to come in force. As per the regulations, these shall become effective after approval of the detailed procedures of CTU by the CERC. In this regard, POWERGRID, as CTU has already submitted the detailed procedures for approval to CERC on 10th November, 2009 and the same is under consideration by CERC.

Mega power policy

1964. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently made major changes in the mega power policy and States have been allowed to purchase power from Mega Power Plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States have been directed to carry out distribution reforms as laid down by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the shortage of power in the States would be met by the above changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Government has approved the following changes in the existing Mega Power Policy:-

(i) The existing condition of privatization of distribution by power purchasing States would be replaced by the condition that power purchasing States shall undertake to carry out distribution reforms as laid down by Ministry of Power (MoP).